REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the outstanding Office Action dated October 3, 2005.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-6 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 7-8 in order to overcome the rejection.

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 5,253,300 (Knapp). Moreover, the Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent number 5,253,300 (Knapp). Claims 1-6 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 7-8 and it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn in light of the following reasons.

U.S. patent number 5,253,300 (Knapp) discloses hearing aids which include rechargeable batteries and contacts accessible from outside of the hearing aid casing for the battery, in which a charging case includes solar cells mounted on the charging case fro outputting energy for charging the batteries in the hearing aids, and the charging case may include silos for supporting an over-the-ear hearing aid or a recess for receiving a volume control on the hearing aid. Nevertheless, this reference fails to a rechargeable hearing aid which comprises: a hearing aid body containing a charging circuit; and a battery charger, said battery charger being provided with a receiving groove and a battery chamber, said receiving groove being adapted to said hearing aid body and provided with connection terminals at two sides of said receiving groove for flexibly locking said hearing aid body, said connection terminals being connected to said battery chamber, said receiving groove being pivotally connected to a cover by way of a hinge element, said battery charger being provided

below said receiving groove with a charging indicator and a light and a switch for said light being connected to said hinge element and being controlled by said cover thereby turning on and off said light by way of lifting said cover and provide rays to ease a user to dispose said hearing aid body into said receiving groove for recharging purposes, said battery charger being provided with a clamping groove for receiving a cleaning brush and a battery chamber for receiving dry batteries, said charging circuit being composed of a microphone, a plurality of resistors, electric capacitors and chips, and a receiver; one of said resistors being a variable resistor for adjusting volume of said microphone, one of said electric capacitors being able to provide electric power through dry batteries for recharging purposes, said charging indicator being turned on when said hearing aid body is being charged, said battery charger being provided with a leather case for containing said battery charger, said leather case being provided with a buckled clip for fastening to a belt of said user. Hence, this reference can be clearly distinguished from the present invention in structure. Furthermore, the present invention has the following advantages over the cited reference:

1. The present invention does not depend on solar power for its power source. The KNAPP hearing aid battery charger and its precise electronic circuit therein require extended exposure to the sun thus resulting in shortened lifespan. In addition, the KNAPP hearing aid battery charger cannot function at night due to lack of sun, nor can it function at places where there are no power supply.

2. The main power supply of the present invention is the most common and economical AA size 1.5V alkali batteries, and its secondary power supply is the 100-240V AC/DC adaptor which is used worldwide. Because the high capacity circuit in the present invention needs only minimal power (approximately 0.8mA) in order to function, and it only needs 9mA/Hr battery storage capacity. When using

the AA battery as the main power supply for the present invention, it can be used at least 150 times.

3. The present invention and its charger are joined by a CONNECTER whilst the KNAPP model requires a Cable (74) and a plugged-in type CONNECTER (75). In other words, the present invention only needs to be touching the CONNECTER to be able to function, whereas the KNAPP hearing aid must be plugged in. Due to the necessity for a socket for linking the hearing aid and the battery charger, the overall size of the KNAPP model increases while losing its waterproof characteristics. On the other hand, the present invention is of a smaller size while retaining its waterproof characteristics, making it convenient to carry.

4. The present invention is equipped with a power capacity indicator and a full capacity indicator and determinant. The KNAPP model needs a separate detector (60) attached by a cable (62) and a plug (61) to detect the status of its power capacity. The present invention and its power charger can simultaneously complete the multiple command for storage, charging, charging indicator and capacity status indicator, whereas the KNAPP model requires the cable and the plug to perform separately tasks of charging and detection of status of charging.

5. The present invention has a compartment capable of storing one AA battery, three ear soft tips and one cleaning brush, whilst the KNAPP model does not possess this feature.

Accordingly, the cited reference fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention and so the subject matter sought to be patented as a whole would not be anticipated or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The applicant has reviewed the prior art as cited by the Examiner but not used in the rejection and believes that the new claims clearly and distinctly patentably define over such prior art.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition of allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

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